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EDIC/ID-10
ATTACHMENT

FINNISH MERCHANT SHIPS FOR COMMUNIST CHINA

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1. [REDACTED] an unidentified Swedish shipbroker in Lausanne, Switzerland has approached all Finnish shipowners offering to buy old ships for Communist China. [REDACTED] the Finnish vessels AUNE H., 2086 GRT, VAASA, 9632 GRT, and the PETSAMO, 4497 GRT, probably already have been sold. Sale of the KOTKA, 6103 GRT, is reported to be under discussion. Prices are reported to be very favorable, with payment in sterling to be made in London. [REDACTED] similar offers have been made to shipowners in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

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2. On 2 November 1954, it was reported that the Finnish merchant ship WERGUS, 1959 GRT, had been sold to Communist China for 39,500 pounds sterling with delivery at Shanghai scheduled for about 13 March 1955. This vessel, a 7-knot freighter built in 1904, was owned by Rederi-A/B Wergus (Goran Lonnholtz, Kuurila, Finland). The sale was negotiated by the Hamburg brokerage firm WELTFRACHT SCHIFFFAHRT und SPEDITION on behalf of the Chinese Communists. It was reported that the vessel would depart Hamburg for Shanghai toward the end of December 1954 manned by a Finnish crew and loaded with West German and transit goods of a non-strategic nature. According to a recent report, the vessel loaded sugar at Gdynia, departing that port on 28 December. It is further reported that the vessel will bunker at Gibraltar and Aden for the voyage to Shanghai. Notwithstanding the reported nature of the cargo, the bunkering of this vessel at the above ports will effect the delivery of a highly strategic commodity to Communist China. It is believed, therefore, that in deference to the China embargo, the British would hardly consummate this bunkering contract if representations along the above lines were made prior to the vessel's arrival at Gibraltar estimated to be about 11 January 1955.

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